

EXHIBIT

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February 2, 2025 Meet the Press
Kristen Welker's Opening Sequence
Interviews with Department of Homeland
Security Secretary Kristi Noem, Missouri Senator
Eric Schmitt and Arizona Senator Mark Kelly
Panel Discussion

<p>1 KRISTEN WELKER: This Sunday: Trump's 2 tariffs. President Trump issues tariffs on 3 America's largest trading partners, threatening 4 to drive up prices for American consumers. 5 Mexico and Canada swiftly vowing to retaliate. 6 PRIME MINISTER JUSTIN TRUDEAU: Tariffs 7 against Canada will put your jobs at risk. They 8 will raise costs for you. 9 KRISTEN WELKER: Is this the start of a 10 global trade war? Plus: searching for answers. 11 JENNIFER HOMENDY: We are going to 12 conduct a thorough investigation of this entire 13 tragedy looking at the facts. 14 KRISTEN WELKER: As federal 15 investigators hunt for answers in the deadly 16 plane crash over the Potomac River, President 17 Trump shifts to blaming diversity policies, air 18 traffic controllers and his political rivals. 19 PRES. DONALD TRUMP: I put safety 20 first. Obama, Biden and the Democrats put policy 21 first. 22 SEC. SEAN DUFFY: We can only accept 23 the best and the brightest. 24 SEC. PETE HEGSETH: The era of DEI is 25 gone at the Defense Department.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 2</p>	<p>1 ANNOUNCER: From NBC News in 2 Washington, the longest-running show in 3 television history, this is Meet the Press with 4 Kristen Welker. 5 KRISTEN WELKER: Good Sunday morning. 6 After just two weeks in office, President Trump 7 is waging battles across the globe and inside his 8 own government. Overnight, he imposed tariffs on 9 America's three largest trading partners. They 10 are already hitting back, raising fears of a 11 trade war. The president is also facing the 12 first crisis of his second term in office: the 13 worst aviation disaster in a generation, after an 14 Army Black Hawk helicopter and American Airlines 15 plane crashed above Washington. There were no 16 survivors and 67 people died in the crash. On 17 Thursday, after a moment of silence, President 18 Trump pivoted to politics, suggesting without 19 evidence that diversity and inclusion policies 20 contributed to the crash. 21 [BEGIN TAPE] 22 PRES. DONALD TRUMP: The FAA is 23 actively recruiting workers who suffer severe 24 intellectual disabilities, psychiatric problems 25 and other mental and physical conditions under a</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 4</p>
<p>1 KRISTEN WELKER: And cabinet battles. 2 ROBERT F. KENNEDY JR.: Senator, I 3 support vaccines. 4 SEN. MICHAEL BENNET: This is a job 5 where it is life and death. 6 SEN JAMES LANKFORD: Was Edward Snowden 7 a traitor? 8 TULSI GABBARD: My heart is with my 9 commitment to our constitution. 10 KASH PATEL: I would never do anything 11 unconstitutional or unlawful. 12 KRISTEN WELKER: President Trump's most 13 controversial nominees face off on Capitol Hill, 14 but will they all be confirmed? My guests this 15 morning: Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, 16 Republican Senator Eric Schmitt of Missouri and 17 Democratic Senator Mark Kelly of Arizona. 18 Joining me for insight and analysis are NBC News 19 Senior White House Correspondent Kelly O'Donnell, 20 NBC News Chief Capitol Hill Correspondent Ryan 21 Nobles, Marc Short, former director of 22 legislative affairs to President Trump and former 23 Democratic Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy of 24 Florida. Welcome to Sunday. It's Meet the 25 Press.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 3</p>	<p>1 diversity and inclusion hiring initiative spelled 2 out on the agency's website. Can you imagine? 3 REPORTER: You have, today, blamed the 4 diversity element, but then told us that you 5 weren't sure that the controllers made any 6 mistake. You then said perhaps the helicopter 7 pilots were the ones who – 8 PRES. DONALD TRUMP: Yeah. 9 REPORTER: -- made the mistake – 10 PRES. DONALD TRUMP: It's all under 11 investigation. 12 REPORTER: I understand that. That's 13 why I'm trying to figure out how you can come to 14 the conclusion right now that diversity had 15 something to do with this crash. 16 PRES. DONALD TRUMP: Because I have 17 common sense, okay? And unfortunately, a lot of 18 people don't. 19 [END TAPE] 20 KRISTEN WELKER: According to the FAA 21 and other aviation groups, all candidates seeking 22 to become air traffic controllers and pilots have 23 to go through years of rigorous training and 24 testing, and meet the same exceedingly high 25 standards. As Washington was responding to the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 5</p>

<p>1 tragedy, President Trump's three most vulnerable 2 cabinet picks were testifying on Capitol Hill. 3 Now, multiple sources tell NBC News there is 4 growing concern in the White House and among 5 Republicans that Tulsi Gabbard's nomination for 6 director of national intelligence could be in 7 serious trouble after her confirmation hearing in 8 which she didn't directly answer whether Edward 9 Snowden, who leaked government secrets, is a 10 traitor. 11 [BEGIN TAPE] 12 SEN. JAMES LANKFORD: Was he -- was he 13 a traitor at the time when he took America's 14 secret to release them in public and then ran to 15 China and became a Russian citizen? 16 TULSI GABBARD: Senator, I'm focused on 17 the future and how we can prevent something like 18 this from happening again. 19 SEN. MICHAEL BENNET: Was Edward 20 Snowden a traitor to the United States of 21 America? 22 TULSI GABBARD: Senator, I will also 23 repeat my answer. He broke the law. 24 SEN. MICHAEL BENNET: Yes or no? Is 25 Edward Snowden a traitor to the United States of</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p>	<p>1 PRES. DONALD TRUMP: No. 2 [END TAPE] 3 KRISTEN WELKER: Canadian Prime 4 Minister Justin Trudeau firing back. 5 [BEGIN TAPE] 6 PRIME MINISTER JUSTIN TRUDEAU: I want 7 to speak directly to Americans, our closest 8 friends and neighbors. This is a choice that 9 yes, will harm Canadians but beyond that, it will 10 have real consequences for you. It will raise 11 costs for you, including food at the grocery 12 store, gas at the pump. They will impede your 13 access to an affordable supply of vital goods, 14 crucial for U.S. security. 15 [END TAPE] 16 KRISTEN WELKER: All of this comes as 17 the president is ramping up his deportation 18 efforts. And joining me now from the border in 19 Del Rio, Texas is Homeland Security Secretary 20 Kristi Noem. Secretary Noem, welcome back to 21 Meet the Press. 22 SEC. KRISTI NOEM: Thank you. Thank 23 you for inviting me to be with you today, 24 Kristen. 25 KRISTEN WELKER: Thank you so much for</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p>
<p>1 America? 2 TULSI GABBARD: As someone who -- 3 SEN. MICHAEL BENNET: -- I'll go on to 4 my questions -- 5 TULSI GABBARD: -- has worn our uniform 6 in combat, I understand how critical our national 7 security is -- 8 SEN. MICHAEL BENNET: Apparently, you 9 don't. 10 [END TAPE] 11 KRISTEN WELKER: White House officials 12 insist President Trump is standing by Gabbard. 13 Meanwhile, there have been a dizzying number of 14 actions this week, as President Trump halted 15 federal funding and then reversed course amid a 16 legal challenge, fired dozens of career 17 prosecutors inside the Justice Department and 18 forced out FBI senior executives. And officially 19 on Saturday imposed tariffs on America's largest 20 trading partners: Mexico, Canada and China. 21 [BEGIN TAPE] 22 KELLY O'DONNELL: Is there anything 23 China, Canada and Mexico can do tonight to 24 forestall your implementation of tariffs 25 tomorrow?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p>	<p>1 being here, madam secretary. We are going to 2 talk about the border, the deportation plan in 3 just a moment. I do have to start by talking 4 about the breaking news overnight, the president 5 officially announcing the new tariffs against 6 Canada, Mexico, and China, saying he wants those 7 countries to do more to crack down on illegal 8 immigration and drug trafficking. The three 9 countries are all slamming the move. They're 10 vowing retaliatory strikes. Is the United States 11 now in a trade war? 12 SEC. KRISTI NOEM: You know, these 13 countries have an opportunity to get onboard with 14 the president of the United States and to partner 15 with us to deal with illegal immigration, to take 16 back their individuals that have been in our 17 country illegally. We want to repatriate them 18 home. And they can be partners. So 19 economically, yes, they will feel -- they will 20 feel pain. They will feel what this consequences 21 are, and we'll be able to continue to go forward 22 with a president who's strong, who's putting 23 America first. 24 KRISTEN WELKER: You know, let me just 25 stress that point that I made which is the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 9</p>

<p>1 president cites stopping the flow of fentanyl and 2 undocumented migrants for reasons for these 3 tariffs. And yet, madam secretary, Canada is not 4 a major source of fentanyl coming into the United 5 States. It's frankly minuscule compared to what 6 is seized at the southern border. Why is the 7 United States punishing Canada, one of its 8 closest allies, more than China, where fentanyl 9 originates?</p> <p>10 SEC. KRISTI NOEM: Canada has some work 11 to do as far as helping us secure our northern 12 border. So we still know we're extremely 13 vulnerable across that northern border, that we 14 have people coming into our country from China, 15 from foreign countries. We have people on the 16 terrorist watchlist that come in over our 17 northern border. And in fact what we have sent a 18 message this week on is that we're not just going 19 to enforce our southern border. We're going to 20 put extra resources, resources at that northern 21 border as well. So Canada needs to come to the 22 table. They need to work with us to make sure 23 that not only can we be good neighbors but that 24 we can help each other's economies by getting in 25 line and making sure that our immigration</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 10</p>	<p>1 what he is going to do and what the consequences 2 are. I encourage their leadership teams to get 3 onboard and to make sure that they're not pushing 4 up prices. If prices go up, it's because of 5 other people's reactions to America's laws. And 6 that's what President Trump is doing. He is 7 making sure that we're not picking and choosing 8 winners and losers, that the law applies equally 9 to everybody, American citizens. It applies to 10 those who are here illegally. And our world 11 leaders across the country and across the world, 12 they can help us, or they're going to face some 13 consequences.</p> <p>14 KRISTEN WELKER: Okay, so notable, you 15 are acknowledging it is possible that prices 16 could, at least initially, go up. Secretary 17 Noem, let me shift now to the southern border, 18 where you are. Let's talk about the 19 administration's mass deportation plans. There 20 are a lot of questions about the announcement 21 this week that Guantanamo Bay will be used as a 22 detention facility for migrants. Will people 23 held at Guantanamo have the same due process 24 rights and access to attorneys that they have 25 here in the United States?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 12</p>
<p>1 policies are followed, and that those that are 2 dangerous criminals face consequences. The 3 president has been very clear from the beginning 4 that there's a new sheriff in town, that he's 5 going to make sure he's putting Americans first, 6 and that Canada can help us or they can get in 7 the way, and they will face the consequences of 8 it.</p> <p>9 KRISTEN WELKER: As you know, Madam 10 Secretary, economists all across the board are 11 warning that ultimately tariffs lead to higher 12 prices for consumers and that these tariffs in 13 particular could see prices increase on food, 14 electronics, and cars. The president himself 15 acknowledging this morning these tariffs could 16 cause, quote, "some pain." How is this move 17 helping President Trump fulfill his campaign 18 promise to lower prices?</p> <p>19 SEC. KRISTI NOEM: You know, you've 20 seen the president take action already this week 21 with Colombia. And you saw Colombia react in a 22 very positive way that was good for everyone 23 involved. Canada, Mexico, other countries have 24 the opportunity to do exactly the same. So we 25 have a strong leader. He has laid down exactly</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 11</p>	<p>1 SEC. KRISTI NOEM: Yes, due process 2 will be followed and having facilities at 3 Guantanamo Bay will be an asset to us in the fact 4 that we'll have the capacity to continue to do 5 there what we've always done. We've always had a 6 presence of illegal immigrants there that have 7 been detained. We're just building out some 8 capacity. So we appreciate the partnership of 9 the DOD in getting that up to the level that it 10 needs to get to in order to facilitate this 11 repatriation of people back to their countries. 12 So remember that Guantanamo Bay clearly, by this 13 president, has said that it will hold the worst 14 of the worst, that we are going after those bad 15 actors. This last week, I was in New York City. 16 We were going after people that had warrants out 17 for their arrest on murders and rapes, assaults, 18 gun purchases, drug trafficking. In fact we had 19 a member of TDA that was one of the ringleaders 20 that we picked up that that week, had been trying 21 to buy grenades. These are the types of 22 individuals that we are targeting, we're removing 23 from communities, and that could end up having a 24 stay at Guantanamo Bay before they are returned 25 home to their countries to deal with.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 13</p>

<p>1 KRISTEN WELKER: Is it possible, Madam 2 Secretary, that people could be held at 3 Guantanamo Bay indefinitely? 4 SEC. KRISTI NOEM: That is not the 5 plan. The plan is to have a process that we 6 follow that's laid out in law and make sure that 7 we're dealing with these individuals 8 appropriately according to what the state and the 9 national lawsuit -- or law directs. So we will 10 work with Congress to make sure that we're 11 addressing our legal immigration laws and using 12 Guantanamo Bay appropriately. But it is an asset 13 that we have that we fully intend to utilize. 14 KRISTEN WELKER: Could women, children, 15 and families be held there at Guantanamo? 16 SEC. KRISTI NOEM: You know, if you 17 look at what we are doing today of targeting the 18 worst of the worst, we've been very clear on 19 that. The priority of this president is to go 20 after criminal aliens that are making our streets 21 more dangerous. 22 KRISTEN WELKER: But -- 23 SEC. KRISTI NOEM: After that, we have 24 final removal orders on many individuals in this 25 country. They are the next priority, and we'll</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 14</p>	<p>1 KRISTEN WELKER: Yeah. 2 SEC. KRISTI NOEM: -- what happens when 3 they break the law and how they are returned to 4 their countries. I've been extremely grateful 5 for Secretary of State Marco Rubio's work with 6 these countries to negotiate and use diplomacy to 7 ensure that they are going to be taking 8 individuals back not just from their country but 9 surrounding countries so that we can immediately 10 take action to return them far from the United 11 States, which dramatically increases the 12 likelihood that they're not going to come back. 13 KRISTEN WELKER: Let me ask you, I've 14 been talking to people who are here legally and 15 they have expressed concerns. They say they are 16 carrying, in some cases, their documents around 17 with them. Some of them are afraid to go to 18 churches because ICE agents are now going into 19 churches and schools to carry out these 20 deportation operations. Do people who are here 21 legally need to be carrying around paperwork? 22 And can you guarantee that people who are here 23 legally won't be wrongfully detained? 24 SEC. KRISTI NOEM: Kristen, I would say 25 that if I've heard that expressed by people that</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 16</p>
<p>1 continue to work through -- 2 KRISTEN WELKER: But -- 3 SEC. KRISTI NOEM: -- people that are 4 breaking the law, that are in danger to these 5 communities, and use the detention centers that 6 we have set up in order to facilitate this in an 7 orderly way. 8 KRISTEN WELKER: But I guess, Madam 9 Secretary, my question, would you rule out that 10 women, that children, that families could be held 11 at Guantanamo Bay? Do you rule that out? 12 SEC. KRISTI NOEM: You know, Kristen, 13 we're going to use the facilities that we have. 14 I think you're well aware we have other detention 15 facilities other places in the country. So we 16 will utilize what we have according to what's 17 appropriate for the individuals that we have gone 18 out on these targeted operations with local law 19 enforcement and task forces to make sure that 20 they're being brought in, they're not paroled 21 anymore -- 22 KRISTEN WELKER: Yeah. 23 SEC. KRISTI NOEM: -- onto our streets, 24 that we're keeping America safe, and that we're 25 following the process for --</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 15</p>	<p>1 are legal citizens of the United States, it's 2 because the media has perpetuated that fear. The 3 media has said that that's a possibility. 4 There's nothing from this administration, from 5 President Trump or from any of the law 6 enforcement individuals in these communities, 7 that has said that they need to walk around and 8 be concerned about that at all. We -- the 9 citizens of the United States are confident that 10 finally, after four long years of having a 11 president in the White House that ignored federal 12 law and endangered their communities, that 13 there's a different man in charge now. There's a 14 man in charge who loves this country, is going to 15 help make their communities safer. And these 16 citizens that live here are thrilled. In fact, 17 when I was in New York City earlier this week and 18 -- 19 KRISTEN WELKER: Yeah. 20 SEC. KRISTI NOEM: -- in several cities 21 since then, the people walking by us on the 22 streets were thanking our officers. They were 23 thanking these investigators and those that were 24 taking these dangerous criminals out for being 25 there, for making sure that they could walk their</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p>

<p>1 kids to school with a new confidence that they 2 could get there safely and that they could do 3 business and have their community back. 4 KRISTEN WELKER: Secretary Noem, let me 5 ask you about the news that you made overnight, 6 DHS officially making the decision to end 7 Temporary Protected Status. For our audience, 8 that means, applies to about half a million 9 Venezuelans. They no longer have protection from 10 deportation. These are people who were welcomed 11 here. They did everything by the books. Why 12 should they be subject to deportation? Just very 13 quickly. 14 SEC. KRISTI NOEM: Well, the TPP 15 program has been abused, and it doesn't have 16 integrity right now. And folks from Venezuela 17 that have come into this country are members of 18 TDA. And remember, Venezuela purposely emptied 19 out their prisons, emptied out their mental 20 health facilities and sent them to the United 21 States of America. So we are ending that 22 extension of that program, adding some integrity 23 back into it. And this administration's 24 evaluating all of our programs to make sure they 25 truly are something that's to the benefit of the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p>	<p>1 note. I want to start by talking about this 2 horrific plane crash here in the nation's 3 capital. It claimed 67 lives. I know that you 4 have been paying close attention to this 5 investigation. President Trump, for his part 6 came out, he held a news conference, started with 7 a moment of silence, quickly shifted to politics, 8 including blaming diversity programs for the 9 crash. Do you believe that President Trump runs 10 the risk of getting ahead of the facts by drawing 11 conclusions that he himself says he has no 12 evidence that diversity programs played a role? 13 SEN. ERIC SCHMITT: Well, the first 14 thing I want to say is that our thoughts and 15 prayers are with the families. This is going to 16 be a long road for them. As everyone knows, this 17 is a nightmare. You know, you take a loved one 18 to the airport, you never expect this to happen, 19 you know, the last time you ever see that person. 20 And so, I don't want -- we'll talk about all 21 that, but the human tragedy here is something 22 that's gut-wrenching for those families. My 23 prayers, my family's prayers are with them, and I 24 know the country wants to wrap their arms around 25 them too. They deserve a full investigation, and</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p>
<p>1 United States, so that they're not to the benefit 2 of criminals. 3 KRISTEN WELKER: Homeland Security 4 Secretary Kristi Noem, thank you so much. I know 5 it's been a busy week. I know you've also been 6 very engaged in the investigation into -- 7 SEC. KRISTI NOEM: Yeah. 8 KRISTEN WELKER: -- the horrific crash 9 here. We appreciate your joining us. Thank you 10 so much. 11 SEC. KRISTI NOEM: Yeah. Thank you so 12 much. We're praying for their families, 13 absolutely. 14 KRISTEN WELKER: Thank you, Madam 15 Secretary. When we come back, Republican Senator 16 Eric Schmitt of Missouri joins me next. 17 (Break) 18 KRISTEN WELKER: Welcome back. And 19 joining me now is Republican Senator Eric Schmitt 20 of Missouri. Senator Schmitt, welcome back to 21 Meet the Press. 22 SEN. ERIC SCHMITT: It's great to be 23 with you, Kristen. 24 KRISTEN WELKER: Well, it is great to 25 have you back. I do have to start on a somber</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p>	<p>1 I think we've learned a few things already. But 2 as it relates specifically to the president's 3 comments, this is nothing new, Kristen. This 4 idea of emphasizing DEI across the federal 5 government has real ramifications. The president 6 said and as you just mentioned, not related 7 specifically, we don't know, the investigation 8 will find out. But broadly speaking, DEI is 9 poison. It's hurt recruiting, it's hurt hiring, 10 it's hurt retention. The hours spent on these 11 struggle sessions during training is hours you 12 don't spend on safety. And that's just a fact. 13 And it's evidenced by the fact that 1,000 people 14 sued the air traffic control for not being hired 15 because of their race. It's evidenced by the 16 fact that you have also people who were fired 17 from air traffic controls, and pilots for not 18 taking the Covid shot. And then, you know, the 19 government then, of course, makes it a priority 20 to hire 87,000 IRS agents to roam across the 21 country and harass Americans. So this has 22 become, Kristen, an obsession. And in the 23 commerce committee, if you paid any attention — 24 (INAUDIBLE) that I've had, other members have 25 had, to put these policies — (INAUDIBLE) exactly</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p>

<p>1 what they've done. And they try to score 2 political points by doing it, but it has real 3 ramifications on the workforce. 4 KRISTEN WELKER: Just very quickly, I 5 mean, we have to point out that the FAA, aviation 6 groups, say that every pilot, every air traffic 7 controller has to pass the same rigorous test. 8 They have to meet exceedingly high standards. 9 But bottom line, Senator, what I'm asking you, do 10 you have any evidence whatsoever that diversity 11 programs played a role in this crash? Because 12 the President said he doesn't. 13 SEN. ERIC SCHMITT: Well, no one has 14 said that. But I do think if you want to find a 15 solution you have to be honest about the problem. 16 And the truth is, merit has taken a backseat to 17 quotas. That's the truth -- 18 KRISTEN WELKER: But Senator, we don't 19 know that's the problem in this case-- 20 SEN. ERIC SCHMITT: No, no. 21 KRISTEN WELKER: We don't know that 22 that's the problem in this instance-- 23 SEN. ERIC SCHMITT: I know. But 24 Kristen, Kristen we can distinguish the 25 investigation in this case versus writ large.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p>	<p>1 He's now imposing tariffs on the country's three 2 biggest trading partners: Mexico, Canada, and 3 China. Can you guarantee, Senator, that these 4 tariffs won't drive up prices? 5 SEN. ERIC SCHMITT: All we have to do 6 is look at President Trump's first four years 7 where he institutes tariffs. We didn't see 8 inflation. In fact, we saw record wage growth. 9 We saw \$200 billion plus go into the Treasury 10 from those tariffs. Tariffs that help even the 11 playing field with countries who have been 12 ripping us off, quite frankly, for generations. 13 China, specifically. I think the American people 14 are tired of being ripped off. They're tired of 15 seeing their jobs go overseas. But I think these 16 tariffs specifically, Kristen, are meant to bring 17 Canada and Mexico to the table for the fentanyl 18 that is streaming into our communities. It's 19 also worth noting, in the last four years, that 20 the trade imbalance and our trade deficit has 21 gone up 200 percent plus with Canada and up 52 22 percent with Mexico. The fact is these countries 23 are taking advantage of us. All along the while 24 we've got fentanyl streaming into our country. 25 So Mexico has a choice. They can choose to trade</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p>
<p>1 It's also true in our military. Pete Hegseth is 2 going to get rid of DEI in the military. It's 3 divisive, it's hurt recruiting. The same is true 4 across the government. People don't want to sit 5 through these struggle sessions with this race 6 essentialism. And by the way, the federal 7 government is being sued for discriminating 8 against certain employees because of their race. 9 So this is a fact of the matter. It's true. And 10 the one thing people care about is they want to 11 get from here to there safely. I don't care, and 12 Americans don't care the race of the pilot, or 13 somebody in the tower, or their religion, or 14 their gender. They just want the best people, 15 and that is what we have to get back to in the 16 country. 17 KRISTEN WELKER: Alright. Let's, as 18 you say, your thoughts and prayers are with the 19 families right now. I think that certainly is 20 something that everyone can agree with. I do 21 want to move on-- 22 SEN. ERIC SCHMITT: Absolutely-- 23 KRISTEN WELKER: --to tariffs, this 24 breaking news overnight. President Trump, as you 25 know, won in part on a vow to bring down prices.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p>	<p>1 with the United States or continue to cozy up 2 with the cartels. It's pretty simple. 3 KRISTEN WELKER: But you talk about 4 President Trump's first term. It's worth noting 5 that during his first term a number of prices did 6 go up on various goods from washing machines and 7 tires. You mention Canada. Very little fentanyl 8 is coming across the border from Canada. Why is 9 the President punishing Canada more than China, 10 the country's adversary? Do you think that's 11 right? 12 SEN. ERIC SCHMITT: Well, that number 13 is growing, though, Kristen. I think it's 14 important, especially in the last year-- 15 KRISTEN WELKER: --But it's minuscule 16 right now. It's miniscule right now. 17 SEN. ERIC SCHMITT: But it's growing. 18 It's growing. And when they have a porous 19 border, and they don't seem very concerned at 20 all-- and by the way, I heard the clip earlier, 21 Justin Trudeau sort of lecturing Americans. My 22 advice to him is, he probably ought to talk to 23 the Canadian people who are about ready to throw 24 him out of office because he's been a total 25 disaster. So, I think we've got a president that</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p>

<p>1 wants to put America first and protect people. 2 We have 100,000 people a year, Kristen, dying 3 from fentanyl. He ran about this -- on this. 4 This is not a surprise. He talked about getting 5 operational control of our border, he talked 6 about tariffs and improving our standing in the 7 world. He's doing all those things. And look no 8 further, the best evidence of this last week. 9 Colombia came to the table after that threat and 10 agreed to take criminals back into their country, 11 and illegal immigrants. So, the fact of the 12 matter is it works. It worked the first time 13 when he was in office. We didn't see inflation, 14 we saw wage growth, and we saw more on-shoring of 15 jobs back here to the United States. 16 KRISTEN WELKER: I have to ask you 17 about the confirmation hearings, of course. Last 18 time you were here in November you told me you 19 were a "yes" on President Trump's Cabinet 20 nominations. Some of your Republican colleagues, 21 this week expressing concern in the wake of Tulsi 22 Gabbard's confirmation hearing. She's been 23 tapped to be the Director of National 24 Intelligence. Of course she was pressed on 25 whether Edward Snowden is a traitor--would not</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 26</p>	<p>1 the intelligence community spying on a 2 presidential candidate that happened to be 3 President Trump, suppressing the Hunter Biden 4 laptop story when he was running again, and then, 5 of course, the lawfare that included. So, I 6 think people are tired of these games, of this 7 sort of, "gotcha" stuff. Look, if he's, if he's 8 been indicted, he comes back to the States, he's 9 going to have a trial. But this idea we tried to 10 disqualify using these terms is ridiculous. 11 KRISTEN WELKER: Well, and what I'm 12 doing really, I mean, these are questions that 13 were asked by your Republican colleagues, 14 including Senator Langford, who asked very 15 simply, is he a traitor? A government contractor 16 who leaked government secrets? It's a very 17 simple question, yes or no? We're almost out of 18 time, though. 19 ERIC SCHMITT: Sure. 20 KRISTEN WELKER: Is he a traitor? 21 ERIC SCHMITT: I think she was pretty 22 clear. I think she's pretty clear. 23 KRISTEN WELKER: But what do you think? 24 ERIC SCHMITT: That she served this 25 country honorably, and I think it's totally</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 28</p>
<p>1 answer that directly. Senator, are you still a 2 "yes" on Tulsi Gabbard's confirmation? 3 SEN. ERIC SCHMITT: I am, 100 percent. 4 I think she's very well-qualified. No one's 5 disputing that. She served our country honorably 6 in the military. She's been a member of 7 Congress. And I think she strikes a really 8 important balance for a key position of civil 9 liberties, protecting civil liberties of United 10 States citizens, and also our national security. 11 So, I still think she's going to get confirmed. 12 That's what this confirmation process is all 13 about, for people to ask tough questions. And I 14 think she's going to do just fine next week. 15 KRISTEN WELKER: Senator, very quickly 16 to you, how would you answer that same question? 17 Is Edward Snowden a traitor? 18 ERIC SCHMITT: Look, I think it's, it's 19 so interesting that this lexicon that gets 20 manipulated now. There were certain words that 21 you needed to say during COVID. There are 22 certain words that you need to say now. The fact 23 of the matter is, the people who are most 24 concerned, the most pushing this narrative are 25 the same ones who had no issues whatsoever with</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 27</p>	<p>1 ridiculous to try to smear people who are trying 2 to serve this country, because again, it's sort 3 of "gotcha." And I will also point out a lot of 4 people that are asking this don't like her 5 because she's going to bring reform and she's 6 going to curb the excesses in the worst instincts 7 of the intelligence community at times that has 8 gone after presidential candidates. 9 KRISTEN WELKER: Alright. Senator Eric 10 Schmitt, thank you so much for being here. 11 Really appreciate it. 12 SEN. ERIC SCHMITT: Great to be with 13 you. 14 KRISTEN WELKER: When we come back, 15 Democratic Senator Mark Kelly of Arizona joins me 16 next. 17 (Break) 18 KRISTEN WELKER: Welcome back, and 19 joining me now is Democratic Senator Mark Kelly 20 of Arizona. Senator Kelly, welcome back to Meet 21 the Press. 22 SEN. MARK KELLY: Good morning, 23 Kristen. 24 KRISTEN WELKER: It's great to have you 25 back. I do have to start again on this tragic</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 29</p>

<p>1 news about this plane crash here in the nation's 2 capital. You, of course, have flown combat 3 missions as a Navy pilot. You just heard my 4 conversation with Senator Schmitt responding to 5 what we heard from President Trump this week, 6 that diversity programs, according to the 7 president, may have played a role. The president 8 acknowledging he does not have proof of that. 9 What is your take on what we know and what you've 10 heard?</p> <p>11 SEN. MARK KELLY: Well, Kristen, first, 12 it's a tragic and sad accident. I really feel 13 for the families on the plane, on the helicopter. 14 It's -- you know, you know, these accidents are 15 all often a very complicated set of things that 16 happen sequentially. It's often not one thing 17 that causes a major aviation accident like this. 18 I've been involved in accident investigations, 19 particularly, like with the -- with Space Shuttle 20 Columbia, you know, as an example, that we lost 21 in 2003. And to say that it has to do with the 22 person's color of their skin or their gender, I 23 think that's just poor leadership. And 24 especially at a time where any president is 25 supposed to be the consoler-in-chief, and not the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 30</p>	<p>1 that we could do to strengthen the border. You 2 know, we've demonstrated that Democrats and 3 Republicans can work together to come up with 4 real policy solutions. What the president has 5 proposed here, raising tariffs on Canada and 6 Mexico, it's going to just do one thing. You say 7 it may raise prices. It will raise prices for 8 American consumers. We saw this in his first 9 administration here in Arizona. We wound up in a 10 trade war over certain things with China. For 11 cotton producers and pecan farmers, they wound up 12 -- it really, really hurt their businesses. But, 13 you know, beyond this it's going to hurt American 14 families. They're going to see prices go up for 15 food, for energy, for electronics, I think you 16 mentioned that, for autos. This is not the way 17 to handle this.</p> <p>18 KRISTEN WELKER: I do want to turn to 19 the nomination process. Tulsi Gabbard in the 20 spotlight this week. You were among those asking 21 her a range of different questions during her 22 confirmation hearing. She is a former Democratic 23 lawmaker. We should let -- remind folks of that. 24 She ran for president in the Democratic Party. 25 Notably, you have supported all but two of Mr.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 32</p>
<p>1 person that's going to try to divide us as a 2 country, especially when you don't have the 3 appropriate information. And he clearly does not 4 have the information in this case. This is too 5 early in the investigation. The NTSB is really 6 good at this. They'll do a thorough 7 investigation and we'll eventually see what the 8 cause of this accident was.</p> <p>9 KRISTEN WELKER: Yeah, and they are 10 still investigating, that is for sure. Let's 11 shift to the other big news of this morning, the 12 president's announcement on tariffs on the 13 country's three biggest trading partners. You 14 heard Senator Schmitt defending the plan, you 15 heard Secretary Noem defending the plan as well, 16 saying ultimately this will be good for the 17 economy, rejecting the idea that it could drive 18 up prices. Do you think, as President Trump has 19 argued, that tariffs ultimately will be good at 20 stemming the flow of illegal immigration and 21 fentanyl?</p> <p>22 SEN. MARK KELLY: Kristen, you're -- 23 we're talking about two different things here. 24 Border security is important. I represent 25 Arizona. We're a border state. There are things</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 31</p>	<p>1 Trump's nominees so far, but you've expressed 2 some real concerns about Tulsi Gabbard. Based on 3 your conversations, do you think Tulsi Gabbard 4 has the votes to get confirmed?</p> <p>5 SEN. MARK KELLY: Well, I think anybody 6 who went into that confirmation hearing this week 7 with questions about, you know, her background, 8 her ability to manage 18 intelligence agencies, 9 and also her commitment to guard our secrets -- 10 as the director of national intelligence, she is 11 responsible for a lot. She's got to sort through 12 a massive amount of information every single day, 13 decide what to present to the president. I think 14 if you had questions about her decision making 15 and her judgment when you went into that hearing, 16 I think anybody that sat there, like I did, or my 17 colleagues on both sides of the aisle, probably 18 left with more questions. I know I did. You 19 played Senator Lankford's exchange with her over 20 whether or not Edward Snowden was a traitor. 21 It's a pretty simple question to ask. He 22 actually thought he was throwing her a softball, 23 something she could easily, you know, admit to. 24 I mean, the definition of a traitor's pretty 25 simple. I mean, whether or not somebody betrayed</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 33</p>

<p>1 our country, and in the case of Edward Snowden, 2 we know he did. He gave -- he released a lot of 3 classified information, top secret information, 4 over a million documents, and he gave a lot of 5 those to Russia, he may have given some to China. 6 He meets the definition. I don't see why she 7 couldn't, you know, say that. I'm kind of 8 puzzled by it and, you know, I don't know why she 9 wouldn't admit that. It's interesting, my friend 10 and colleague, Eric Schmitt, wouldn't either. I 11 don't, you know, I don't question, you know, his 12 judgment on this. I think this is a very 13 political situation. But I think my Republican 14 colleagues, many of them will still have 15 questions about her nomination.</p> <p>16 KRISTEN WELKER: All right, well, we'll 17 have to see how it all plays out. It will be 18 obviously a dynamic several days as we wait to 19 see what happens with her vote, whether she gets 20 out of committee. Sources who are close to her 21 say they do feel confident she will. I do want 22 to talk about the president's mass deportation 23 plans. You heard from Homeland Security 24 Secretary Kristi Noem earlier in the broadcast. 25 ICE operations are already being carried out</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 34</p>	<p>1 accordance with our values.</p> <p>2 KRISTEN WELKER: One more question to 3 you, Senator. President Trump obviously signed 4 the Laken Riley Act into law this week. Just so 5 folks understand, that will allow law enforcement 6 to detain and to deport undocumented immigrants 7 who've been charged with theft-related crimes. 8 You voted in support of this bill. I had an 9 opportunity to interview your colleague, Senator 10 Adam Schiff, who opposed it. He told me last 11 week this bill is so broad the U.S., quote, 12 "would be able to deport Dreamers for taking a 13 tube of toothpaste." Can you guarantee this law 14 won't be applied in a way that's overly broad?</p> <p>15 SEN. MARK KELLY: Well, this law is 16 about public safety. Representing a border 17 state, this affects Arizona I think more than 18 other states just because of, you know, numbers, 19 and it's where, you know, folks cross. Kristen, 20 if you come across the border and you don't have 21 documentation, you've already committed a crime. 22 This is for somebody who then decides to commit a 23 second crime. And they're taken into custody, 24 there'll be due process involved so they could 25 eventually -- if they can prove that these are</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 36</p>
<p>1 across the country. You have pushed for tougher 2 standards, tougher border policies. Do you 3 support what you are seeing so far, the 4 deportation plan, as it's been carried out by the 5 president?</p> <p>6 SEN. MARK KELLY: Yeah, I don't. For a 7 number of reasons. It seems to be more about 8 intimidation of a big population of people. It's 9 going down the road of mass deportation, which he 10 said he would do, which would rip communities 11 apart. These are really bad ideas. Sending -- 12 Trying to send folks back to Colombia, which we 13 do routinely, but sending them on military 14 airplanes, which, by the way, costs a lot more 15 money than putting them on a chartered airline 16 flight which we've, you know, done for decades. 17 It's all about scaring and intimidating people. 18 It's the same thing for Guantanamo Bay. Building 19 a facility there is because it just sounds very 20 frightening to a lot of folks. When you're a 21 criminal, we need to find where you are and we 22 need to take you into custody, and if you're not 23 documented, you should be returned. That makes 24 sense. I'm all about public safety and border 25 security. But we've got to do it in a way in</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 35</p>	<p>1 not valid charges, or they go through the court 2 system -- they could then be released. I'm not 3 concerned about, you know, what Adam is talking 4 about. I think, you know, very highly of 5 Dreamers. You know, Dreamers are as American as 6 my own two kids. I think we should be working 7 towards a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers. I 8 know some of my Republican colleagues feel the 9 same way. And we're going to solve these border 10 issues by working together, Democrats and 11 Republicans, to come up with policy changes on 12 border security and immigration reform.</p> <p>13 KRISTEN WELKER: All right, Senator 14 Kelly, thank you so much for joining us. We 15 really appreciate it.</p> <p>16 SEN. MARK KELLY: Thank you, Kristen.</p> <p>17 KRISTEN WELKER: And when we come back, 18 a warning about the need for checks and balances 19 in the federal government from a former attorney 20 general. Our Meet the Press Minute is next.</p> <p>21 KRISTEN WELKER: Welcome back. One of 22 the Senate's key checks on the executive branch 23 was back on display this week as senators grilled 24 some of President Trump's more vulnerable Cabinet 25 nominees like Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Back in</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 37</p>

<p>1 1961, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, Sr. 2 joined Meet the Press with this defense of 3 Congress's role in reining in the administration. 4 [BEGIN TAPE] 5 ROBERT F. KENNEDY, SR.: I think it's 6 terribly important to ensure that the executive 7 branch of the government is not corrupt, and that 8 they are efficient, that the legislative branch 9 of the government has this ability to check on 10 what we're doing in the executive branch of the 11 government. So, in every instance that has been 12 brought to our attention at the Department of 13 Justice so far by various departments of the 14 executive branch where this question has been 15 raised, we have suggested and recommended that 16 they make the information available to Congress. 17 We will continue to do that. I don't say that 18 there might not be an instance where executive 19 privilege might have to be used, but I think that 20 it's terribly important, with the executive 21 branch of the government as powerful and strong 22 as it is, that there be some check and balance on 23 it. 24 [END TAPE] 25 KRISTEN WELKER: And when we come back,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p>	<p>1 after our nearest neighbors and one of our 2 biggest global adversaries and competitors in 3 China. And I pressed him looking for, "What does 4 he want back? Is it a negotiating ploy? Is 5 there a concession you're looking for?" And he 6 kept saying no. And if you read the text of it, 7 he talks about the national emergency we have 8 with Canada, using that power, that authority he 9 has to declare something that many Americans may 10 not see. I then asked him about, "You ran 11 wanting to reduce prices, and we know that prices 12 are paid -- the -- the importers pay the tariff 13 and then it's passed on." And he said, "There 14 could be disruption. But people will 15 understand." I said, "Mr. President, you said 16 you would reduce everyday costs." So, I think 17 there is a lot more to be understood about the 18 real world impact. It's coming on the fly. It 19 appeared on the fly. He sort of negotiated down 20 from 25 percent to 10 percent on energy because 21 we know energy matters to his overall policy, and 22 it matters to Americans who have to fill their 23 gas tanks. 24 KRISTEN WELKER: Well, Ryan, pick up 25 there. Because for so many constituents of</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 40</p>
<p>1 will President Trump's controversial Cabinet 2 nominees make it through the confirmation 3 process? The panel is next. 4 (Break) 5 KRISTEN WELKER: Welcome back. The 6 panel is here: NBC News Senior White House 7 Correspondent Kelly O'Donnell, NBC News Chief 8 Capitol Hill Correspondent Ryan Nobles, former 9 Democratic Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy of 10 Florida, and Marc Short, former Trump Director of 11 Legislative Affairs. Thanks to all of you for 12 being here. Boy, there are a lot of headlines to 13 get to. Kelly, let's start with the one that 14 broke overnight: tariffs. The president 15 officially moving to impose tariffs against 16 America's three biggest trading partners. You 17 had a very robust exchange with him on Friday in 18 the Oval Office about a range of issues, 19 including this one. You pressed him repeatedly: 20 will prices go up? 21 KELLY O'DONNELL: We had a lot of back 22 and forth on this. In part, I was acting as a 23 pool reporter, so I was in the Oval. And what 24 was striking is this is the president's first 25 foreign policy move, and it is one that goes</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p>	<p>1 lawmakers on Capitol Hill, this is a, you know, 2 issue that impacts them on a day-to-day basis. 3 What is the reaction that you're starting to see 4 trickle into this news that the president is 5 imposing tariffs? And, by the way, potentially 6 vowing to escalate them if these other countries 7 retaliate, which they say they're going to do. 8 RYAN NOBLES: Well, this is going to be 9 a real test to see if Republicans in Congress are 10 willing to stand up to the president, because 11 they're going to be the first ones to hear 12 directly from their constituents when their 13 constituents' prices start to rise. And what 14 we've seen, at least in the first two weeks of 15 this administration, is that Congressional 16 Republicans are largely out of the loop. They're 17 finding out about these major policy proposals 18 oftentimes when we tell them in the hallways of 19 Congress. And so, there's little opportunity for 20 them to react, to respond, and to encourage the 21 president to go into a different direction 22 because he's not consulting them on some of these 23 big decisions. There's a long laundry list of 24 things that I know you want to talk about, 25 Kristen. So, we'll have to see if they're</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p>

<p>1 reactionary here. Do they plead with the White 2 House to try and rein this in or refine the 3 policy proposal a little bit? Because there's no 4 doubt they're going to hear from their 5 constituents first. And we're only a year and 6 change away from the next election, and they're 7 the ones that are going to feel the brunt of 8 these decisions first.</p> <p>9 KRISTEN WELKER: Marc, as someone who 10 was in the first Trump administration when 11 tariffs were imposed against China, there's a 12 difference between these round of tariffs and 13 what we saw during the first Trump 14 administration.</p> <p>15 MARC SHORT: I think this is one of the 16 greatest differences between Trump 1.0 and Trump 17 2.0. In the first administration, the tariffs 18 were largely targeted, largely toward China for 19 national security purposes to get concessions. 20 The first administration had economic advisors 21 and national security advisors who believed in 22 trade for both economic benefit and national 23 security benefit. The team he has around him 24 today has a very different viewpoint. It's a 25 very mercantilist viewpoint that says, "You</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 42</p>	<p>1 broad set of events that we have witnessed? 2 STEPHANIE MURPHY: Well, I think that 3 the Democrats have a real opportunity here if 4 they focus on standing up for the people. And 5 while some of the things that you mentioned are 6 really outrageous -- firing people at the 7 Department of Justice and at the FBI -- Democrats 8 can't be seen as fighting for power within 9 Washington. They have to be seen fighting for 10 the people. And so highlighting the federal 11 funding freeze, talking about the impact of 12 tariffs on everyday Americans, and the cost of 13 their groceries, and all of their prices, that's 14 going to be a winning message for Democrats. 15 It's unfortunate, though, because this president 16 ran and won on lowering costs for Americans, and 17 his first sets of policies are going to actually 18 raise costs for Americans. And Democrats are 19 going to hang that around not just Donald Trump 20 but also Republicans in Congress.</p> <p>21 KRISTEN WELKER: Yeah, we are starting 22 to see them galvanize around this message that 23 you talk about, Stephanie. And what's so notable 24 about the FBI firings, Kash Patel said in his 25 hearing there will not be retribution against</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 44</p>
<p>1 should be paying for access to American markets." 2 Regardless of the reality that Americans or the 3 importers paying that tariff or that tax, the 4 belief is that this is a tax that should be -- 5 should be assessed to other people. I think the 6 bigger question is going to be if there's this 7 huge market reaction this week, if it begins to 8 impact the economy, then I think could undermine 9 a lot of his other parts of his agenda. And I'll 10 say this is just the beginning. The president 11 and his current team really believe this is the 12 right economic policy across the board and there 13 will be a lot more tariffs coming.</p> <p>14 KRISTEN WELKER: Yeah. Stephanie, 15 let's zoom out a little bit. This week really 16 has brought a dizzying number of headlines. It 17 started with the administration basically 18 announcing cuts to all federal aid. They pulled 19 that back, so big reversal. We're kind of 20 waiting to see how that plays out. The 21 president, as we talked about on the program, 22 blaming diversity programs for the crash. And 23 then on Friday, the announcement that a number of 24 prosecutors -- career prosecutors within the FBI 25 and DOJ being fired. What do you make of this</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 43</p>	<p>1 anyone at the FBI. And Ryan, it comes as we have 2 this new reporting that of all the president's 3 nominees, it's Tulsi Gabbard who may be in real 4 trouble. That White House officials were rattled 5 by her inability to say that "Yes, Edward Snowden 6 is a traitor." Notably, today Senator Schmitt 7 didn't want to go there, didn't want to touch it. 8 What are you hearing about her chances of getting 9 confirmed?</p> <p>10 RYAN NOBLES: So, I think of the three 11 most controversial picks -- Patel, RFK Jr., and 12 Tulsi Gabbard -- Gabbard is the one that is in 13 the most danger. But I do think that you have to 14 start from a place of them getting confirmed and 15 work your way back. Because what this 16 administration is not going to do is what they 17 did with Matt Gaetz and pull the nominee back 18 before they get a vote. They're going to force 19 every single Republican senator to be accountable 20 for this vote, and vote yes or no. And that 21 includes Tulsi Gabbard. Now, there is a 22 difference, though, in their approach in terms of 23 how they're encouraging or putting pressure on 24 these senators to vote yes or no, which a part of 25 your reporting says, Kristen. And you know, with</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 45</p>

<p>1 Pete Hegseth, it was a very clear message to 2 Republican senators, a message sometimes sent by 3 the president himself. At this point, we're not 4 seeing that same level of pressure with Tulsi 5 Gabbard. Whether or not that leads to enough 6 senators, you know, it would require four to step 7 out and vote no, that's something we'll probably 8 find out this week.</p> <p>9 KRISTEN WELKER: Yeah. Kelly, you know 10 how this plays out, having covered the Hill.</p> <p>11 KELLY O'DONNELL: It is also a test of 12 how the president judges those on camera 13 performances. And for Robert Kennedy Jr. and 14 Tulsi Gabbard, the performances during the 15 hearings did not meet the same bar that Pete 16 Hegseth did.</p> <p>17 KRISTEN WELKER: And Marc, what do you 18 make of Tulsi Gabbard, but then this morning 19 Senator Schmitt saying, "I'm not going to touch 20 that. That's -- that's not a real question." And 21 yet it was a question that Republicans were 22 asking her.</p> <p>23 MARC SHORT: I think a lot of Americans 24 don't remember who Edward Snowden is or Julian 25 Assange. But I think that -- a lot of Trump</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 46</p>	<p>1 CERTIFICATION</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 I, Sonya Ledanski Hyde, certify that the 4 foregoing transcript is a true and accurate 5 record of the proceedings.</p> <p>6</p> <p>7</p> <p>8 <i>Sonya M. Ledanski Hyde</i></p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11 Veritext Legal Solutions 12 330 Old Country Road 13 Suite 300 14 Mineola, NY 11501</p> <p>15</p> <p>16 Date: February 18, 2025</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 48</p>
<p>1 supporters believe the Intelligence Committee 2 hurt him greatly with the fake Russia 3 investigation. But the speed of position where 4 you can say that somebody who sold American 5 secrets, that put Americans in uniforms lives in 6 danger is somehow not a traitor, is an extension 7 that goes far beyond the pale of where I think 8 our party is today when you can't say that Julian 9 Assange and Edward Snowden were actually 10 traitors.</p> <p>11 STEPHANIE MURPHY: National security is 12 dependent on the ability to collect intelligence 13 and safeguard intelligence. And on both of those 14 counts, Tulsi's hearing showed that she didn't 15 full-throatedly believe in either the key ability 16 to collect the intelligence or the need to 17 safeguard it. And I think that should put some 18 real questions in the senators' minds.</p> <p>19 KRISTEN WELKER: All right. Well, 20 we'll have to see how it all plays out. Great 21 conversation, guys. Thanks so much for being 22 here. That is all for today. Thank you so much 23 for watching. We'll be back next week, because 24 if it's Sunday, it's Meet the Press.</p> <p>25</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 47</p>	

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